



**Delaware Bicycle Council
December 4, 2002
DeIDOT Administration Building**

Members Present

Don Carbaugh, Chair and New Castle County Representative
Tim Plemmons, At-large Representative
Fred Breukelman, Dept. of Public Health Representative
Laura Madara, DNREC Representative
George Heberling, DE State Police Representative
Lisa Moore, Office of Highway Safety Representative
Janet Ray, Department of Education Representative
Paul Stevenson, NCC Representative
Amy Wilburn, At-large Representative

DeIDOT Support Staff Present

Fritz Schranck, Deputy Attorney General
David Petrosky, Project Planner
Anthony Aglio, Project Planner
Rose Ryodi, Administrative Assistant

Members Absent

Danna Levy, Council on Greenways & Trails Representative
Jay Kelley, DeIDOT Representative
(Vacant) At-large Representative
(Vacant) Kent County Representative
(Vacant) Sussex County Representative
(Vacant) Council on Transportation Representative

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m.

I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS:

Introduction of Guests

Don C. welcomed the DBC members and was happy to note that the meeting had a full quorum.

Council Membership Update --- Don C.

Don C. informed members that there were four positions available for new members: (1) At-Large Representative (Carl Anderson is not seeking re-appointment); (2) Kent County Representative (Tom Pleasanton has resigned); (3) Sussex County Representative (Lee Ann Walling has resigned) and, (4) the Council on Transportation Representative position has been vacant for several months. Anyone interested in applying for any of these positions, should let

Don C. know and he would refer names to the governor. Don C. will approach DE Riders and Striders to get a Representative. Laura Madara told members that Judy Jeffers who is the Facilities person for Bellevue State Park at DNREC was interested in joining. Don C. informed members that he knows of some one who is interested in the Sussex Representative position, that person is Dr. Claude Lavallee, who is a Canadian citizen. There was one problem and that was that the doctor spends half the year in Delaware and the other half in Colorado. Don C. enquired whether this would pose as a problem with the other members as the doctor would not attend meetings for six months of the year. All agreed to accept him and there was no objection.

Council Chairmanship --- Don C

Don C. was happy to point out to members that this meeting would be an opportune time to nominate a Chairman as they had a quorum. The chairmanship position is a one-year position and all members are eligible and welcome to apply. The DBC members voiced their wish that Don C. continue as chairman. Mr. Fritz Schranck advised that a re-nomination was the procedure, if every one agreed upon the re-nomination. Mr. Don C. was unanimously voted in to continue as Chairman for the DBC, he accepted. He informed members that he has the time to spend on the chairmanship, as he was retired. He also restated that someone should eventually take over the chairmanship as he has been in this position for approximately six years.

II DELDOT UPDATE

News and DelDOT Organizational items --- Dave P. & Anthony Aglio

Don C. asked the DelDOT representatives whether the Bicycle/Pedestrian Coordinator position had been filled. Dave P. pointed out that as there was a hiring freeze in the State of Delaware and DelDOT has to adhere to, this position could not be filled at the present time. There are two positions to be filled in the SR&P department, one a supervisory position, which takes precedence over the Bike/Pedestrian position. Dave informed members that Joe C. is still the contact person for questions and concerns.

Web site and Newsletter --- Don C.

Don C. pointed out that because of changes in policy there has been some trouble getting direct access to DBC's website. The DBC website has been up and running for two months. It was suggested that a calendar of events/profile of members be added. The contact person is Joe C. As this was the most visited website, it was agreed that Don C. would contact Governor Minner's office to request they add a link site in Delaware's "It's Good being First" website. Dave P. has several photos of the Governor, which he will give to Don C.

The Bike Month meeting will be held in Newark on Wednesday of the first full week of January 2003. Bike Rider/Poster contest/T-Shirt design will be discussed. It was hoped that the Route 1 opening in the spring - April/May could coincide with the Bike Month kickoff. The event of the opening of Route 1 has already been planned by Michelle Ackles. Dave P. will approach Ms. Ackles to give her some more ideas to use for the Bike event. The route for this event will start from Smyrna Rest Area to south of Odessa.

A Delaware Bicycle Council newsletter will be published soon, with the cost footed by DelDOT. There will be 2 issues a year, with the first publication sent out, and in the readers' hands by late April 2003. It was pointed out that even though there was a lot of work involved in this project, an intern from Delaware Technical College (Terry Campus) will be publishing it and he/she will ensure that first publication of newsletter will reach its completion. This will be an educational project for the intern who will probably receive credits. Joe C. is working with students from DelTech to design.

III. OLD BUSINESS

New Castle County Bike Map - Dave P./Anthony A.

The final version has been completed on the map and it will be mailed out beginning in the New Year.

New Castle Rail/Trail - I-295 Underpass --- Tim P.

Tim P. produced a map from New Castle to Christiana Riverfront Heritage Trail. They were awarded a grant of \$35,000 to design map. The trail goes underneath I-495 bridges, which DelDOT wants to have filled and/or closed off. If and when the bridges are closed there will be no direct access for the Cyclists. There would be too many problems for a tunnel to be made under the bridges, the safety factor for one, the bridges are too long which would make the tunnel dark for a long distance. Cyclists prefer wide and open spaces. Tim P. will schedule a meeting with Secretary Hayward to discuss the matter of an alternate route made for the trail. The distance from NC to the Riverfront in Wilmington is 5.2 miles. Trail section: NCC funding. Approach NCC trustees for enhancement revitalization.

Public Health Fitness & Nutrition Initiative --- Fred B.

Fred B. distributed a Blueprint for a Healthier Delaware. This is a booklet setting out a strategic plan from the Public Health to promote physical activity and healthy nutrition to Delawareans. He pointed out how vigorous physical activity steadily declined with age. People are just not interested in being physically active, the older they become the less active they are. This magazine is posted on the following website: www.henod.org. Public Health will name a date to promote this event, which will comprise of a walk and ride. It appears that the kick off for the walk and ride across DE will draw a large crowd. DE City wants to be involved in promoting this event. The walk will be about 15 miles with starting points along the way for those who cannot walk or ride the whole distance. Fred B. will coordinate time with DNREC and this may tie in with the Bicycle Marathon. U of D student volunteers and Scout Troopers will help. U of D getting data to see how effective this program is. Overall, this project is a positive one and put in the context with several other things, it might work. As a way of increasing awareness to the public and school, Public Health is thinking up incentives to encourage participation from Delawareans. It was noted that most schools do not encourage students to do physical activity. They would rather take the activity away from a child as punishment for getting low grades. Getting high grades took priority over exercise. It was also noted that the priority for schools seems to be increasing academic achievement, which may affect the time and commitment to physical education. The state no longer requires a prescribed number of hours for PE so schools interpret the regulation differently. DOE encourages programs to promote physical activity and

discourages taking time away from such programs for disruptive students as a consequence for misbehavior. Dean Betts is the person at DOE who supervises PE programs. Janet will ask him to present an update of the PE Standards at our next meeting. Janet added that recent data from the YRBS (DE Youth Risk Behavior Survey) indicates that females and minorities, especially black young women should be targeted for physical activity programs. The survey reveals they are less likely than other groups to be enrolled in PE or participate in any physical activity programs. Fred B. pointed out that Physical Education was no longer included in the teachers' in-service programs, however, approximately 150 health and physical education teachers participated in a state in-service program on October 11, 2002 at Delaware State University. (Fred was in attendance).

"Safe Routes to School" --- Don C., Tim P. & Dave P.

DelDOT is working with consultants, Parsons Brinckerhoff Quade & Douglas, Inc., to get program underway. The Bike Council is looking forward to implementing program. They have contacted several schools in NCC, who have shown interest. The Colonial School District is excited about this project. Grants and monies are earmarked. Dave P. says that no formal program has been planned, Dave P. to research and get back to members at next meeting. Timetable: in 2 months ready to begin. DelDOT will develop whole plan. There is no deadline to use money, which is, two \$25,000 grants. Dave P. and Anthony A. to develop pilot programs to build enthusiasm. Mr. Ron Love (Tel: (302) 739-4696) is the DOE contact person for "School Transportation." He would be the person to call for information on safe routes to school.

Statewide Bicycle Network

Nathan Hayward, DelDOT Secretary asked the Bike Council to give him a list of what DelDOT could do to make the roads more accessible to bikers. Don C. responded to Secretary Hayward and he has not received a reply. Letter was sent to the Secretary approximately three months ago (see letter dd. 9/4/02).

IV. "TASK" UPDATES

Bike Month 2003 --- Paul S.

A meeting will be planned for the first week in January 2003.

Bike Route Network --- Dave P. & Don C.

Dave P. is working on a map to be published soon.

Effective Cycling Update --- Paul S. & Don C.

Cycling instructors require to be accredited and there is a need for class instructors but because of the poor attendance by teachers during in-service this was a problem.

V. NEW BUSINESS.

Sussex Bike Safety Task Force --- Lisa M. & Anthony A.

Lisa M. informed members of a meeting which was held in Rehoboth in late November '02. Ms. Bobbie Geier was the DelDOT representative and had to explain and answer questions

that arose regarding the problems that were noted by cyclists in the Rehoboth area. The committee comprises of members mostly from the EMS personnel who had some demands and ideas that would be almost impossible to meet. Dr. Lavallee asked that Rumble Strips be put in on Route 1. Don C noted that Rumble Strips were not bicycle friendly. The South Dewey bend to Bethany was a dangerous area. Inattentive driving, and not so much the condition of the road caused most accidents. Some members at the meeting demanded that reflectors and even strobe lights be put in for safety. The representative of State Police at Rehoboth has worked very hard to make this problem a priority and has enforced speed limits. DelDOT Engineering department cannot resolve nor can it have solutions to all the road problems. Despite the energy in the meeting, nothing was accomplished. Two Sussex Bike Safety Task Force meetings have been held so far and yet no solutions have been reached. Few cyclists (mostly foreigners, are involved in accidents because of not understanding the road signs. DP is working on a brochure for the safety of the foreigners who do not understand American English and signals. Lights on the Amish buggies are paid by grants. The Sussex Bike Safety Task Force operates under the auspices of DelDOT and cannot grant every request that is put forth. The Legislative department is responsible for the overall decision-making, and changes or additions to road construction cost a great deal of money. The task force is sponsored by, (1) Chamber of Commerce, and, (2) Realities Association.

Rumble Strips on SR1 --- Anthony A.

It was pointed out that all the requests were almost impossible to be met because of the hiring freeze and the limited budget the state has. DC is going to talk to engineers about the rumble strips, which were the least expensive, around 40c a foot. The distance required is 10 miles. DelDOT is still discussing and gathering more information for the possibility of the various types of rumble strips needed.

News Items --- All

It was agreed that there was no change when the next year's DBC meetings will be held. Meetings will be held the first Wednesday of alternate months at 5 PM in Dover. The next meeting will be held on the 1st Wednesday in February, which is February 5th, 2003 at 5:00 pm at the DelDOT office in Dover.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

No committee reports.

Meeting adjourned at 7:20 pm.